Date: February 7, 2001

REMARKS

The claims have been amended along the lines of the Article 19 and Article 34 amendments made in the international stage to simplify the Examiner's examination of this national phase application. None of these amendments is believed to involve any new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Morris Liss, Reg. No. 24,510

Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP

1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 20036-3425

Telephone: 202-331-7111